



Charting the Course to 2025:
The County of York Comprehensive Plan Review
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Meeting Notice

York County Environmental & Development Services Building
105 Service Drive, Yorktown
Tuesday, February 22, 2005
6:00 PM

Agenda

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Community Facilities – Part I**

The Community Facilities element of the Comprehensive Plan addresses the County's future needs with regard to courts, government offices, parks and recreation, public safety (detention, law enforcement, fire and EMS), and schools. We will discuss three of these sub-elements at this meeting: schools, libraries, and parks and recreation. Jim Wilkins, Director of Maintenance and Facilities Support for the School Division; Lucinda Munger, Library Director; and Brian Fuller, Recreation Supervisor II, will be present to discuss their respective areas of expertise and answer questions.

- 3. Other**
- 4. Adjourn**

Attachments

- Meeting Notes of January 31, 2005



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Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Meeting Notes

York County Environmental and Development Services Building
Multi-Purpose Room
105 Service Drive
Tuesday, February 22, 2005
6:00 PM

Members Present: Nick Barba, Ken Bowman, Jack Christie, Carole Ferro, Carl Loveland, Al Ptasznik,

Staff Present: Mark Carter, Tim Cross, Earl Anderson, Brian Fuller, Charles Mitri, Lucinda Munger, Jim Wilkins

Chairman Barba called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Cross gave a PowerPoint presentation on schools, libraries, and parks and recreation, which together constitute a large part of the Community Facilities element of the *Comprehensive Plan*. Mr. Cross spoke about school enrollment trends, noting that the number of school students per household and the ratio of students to the total population have both declined steadily since 1970. He added that enrollment is likely to grow relatively slowly in the future as the aging of the population continues. Mr. Loveland commented that the senior population is projected to outgrow the school-age population, which could have significant implications. He noted that "Florida syndrome," whereby senior citizens are unwilling to approve taxes to support schools.

Jim Wilkins, Director of Maintenance and Facilities Support for the School Division, briefed the Committee on school expansion projects contained in the School Board's proposed Capital Improvements Program for FY2006 through FY2011. He explained that the School Board plans school additions based on the goal of accommodating projected growth and the desire to eliminate modular classrooms. Schools that are targeted for expansion in the next six years are Yorktown Middle (10 new classrooms), Waller Mill Elementary (4 new classrooms and a gymnasium), Mount Vernon Elementary (10 new classrooms), Tabb Elementary (6 new classrooms), Yorktown Elementary (10 new classrooms), and Seaford Elementary (4 new classrooms). Mr. Wilkins also noted that the proposed CIP also includes a renovation project at York High School that will not increase capacity as well as a 10,000-square foot addition to the School Board Office. Mr. Bowman asked if there had been any consideration of converting York High School to a combined high school/middle school similar to the Grafton school complex. Mr. Wilkins responded that it had been discussed but was not feasible at the time because of a guy wire located in the central courtyard area, which was the only feasible location for an addition. Mr. Christie asked if any new schools are planned, to which Mr. Wilkins responded that none are planned within the six-year horizon of the CIP. He explained that years ago the School Board and the Board of Supervisors agreed that no new schools would be built until the existing schools had been expanded to their maximum capacity. Mr. Wilkins added that in the event that a new school becomes necessary sometime in the future, the School Board owns property in the Kiln Creek area that has been designated as a future school site.

Mr. Anderson presented an overview of the County's library system, which consists of the Yorktown Library on Route 17 and the Tabb Library on Route 134. He added that upper County residents use the Williamsburg-James City County Regional Library System, which consists of a

library in downtown Williamsburg and one in the Norge area of James City County. York County makes an annual voluntary contribution of funds to the regional library, he noted, to help offset the cost of providing service to York County residents. Similarly, he added that almost 40% of the patrons of the York County libraries do not live in the County. Mr. Anderson spoke about the public library standards and guidelines promulgated by the Virginia State Library Board (VSLB) and published in a document titled *Planning for Library Excellence*. Stating that the library system operates in the top 35% of libraries in Virginia based on various service parameters, he explained how the library system performs based on VSLB planning profiles. Mr. Ptasznik asked if there are any plans to build a library in the upper County, to which Mr. Mitri, Chairman of the Library Board, responded that currently there are no such plans. He added that the library has requested that \$30,000 be included in the County's CIP for hiring a consultant to develop a library space and facilities needs assessment. Mr. Bowman suggested that it might be more cost-effective for the County utilize its staff rather than pay an outside consultant to perform such a study.

Lucinda Munger, Library Director, spoke about some of the challenges faced by the library system, including the physical constraints posed by computer stations, the heavy demand placed on the Tabb meeting room, the lack of space for adding new materials, and the impracticality of adding a second story to the Tabb facility.

Mr. Anderson presented information about parks and recreation in the County, stating that the County offers a wide range of recreational programs and activities for every age group. He stated that overall participation in County recreation programs has fallen in recent years largely because of a decline in the "Skate, Rattle, and Roll" roller skating program and because of growth in various non-County sports leagues and programs, many of which, he noted, use County fields and facilities. As a result, overall demand for such facilities has increased over the years even as the County programs have declined in size. Mr. Anderson explained that the County has utilized the "school/park" concept, which provides for the shared use of recreational facilities located at school sites, to help meet its recreation facility needs in a cost-effective manner. In addition, he noted that the County operates several parks and has recently reached an agreement with the City of Newport News to develop an athletic field complex on a 180-acre site owned by the city in the area of Oriana Road and Burts Road. He added that the YMCA has plans to develop a facility on the new Williamsburg Community Hospital site on Mooretown Road.

Brian Fuller, Recreation Supervisor II in the Division of Parks and Recreation, spoke about the growth in community programs and its impact on athletic field use, noting that it has not been possible to develop new programs in recent years because the facilities are not available. Mr. Christie, who serves on the County's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, commended the Parks and Rec staff and Tom Shepperd, Board of Supervisors representative for District 5, for their work in securing over half a million dollars from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) to improve the Rodgers A. Smith Boat Landing.

Chairman Barba thanked Mr. Fuller, Mr. Mitri, Ms. Munger, and Mr. Wilkins for their attendance and participation. He reminded everyone that the next meeting would be on Thursday, February 24 in the cafetorium at the Griffin-Yeates Center and that there would be a joint meeting with the Communications and Outreach Group (COG) on Wednesday, March 2 at the Tabb Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

TCC